

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IOE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 L-03 OIC-02

AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 TRSE-00 ABF-01

OMB-01 /105 W

-----261453Z 056016 /40

P 260934Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 779

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BELGRADE 3370

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLAB ILO YO

SUBJ: ILO 63RD INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE: CRITICAL ISSUES

REF: (A) STATE 102699, (B) STATE 103404, (C) STATE 104945,
(D) STATE 104925

SUMMARY: CHARGE AND EMBOFF HAVE APPROACHED CHAIRMAN OF CABINET
LEVEL COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT AND APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS
IN THAT COMMITTEE AND FEDERAL SECRETARIAT FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
TO BRING TO THEIR ATTENTION SIGNIFICANCE WITH WHICH U.S.
GOVT VIEWS ILO CONFERENCE BEGINNING JUN 1. POINTS
OUTLINED REFTELS HAVE BEEN MADE. YUGOSLAV RESPONSE IN SHORT
IS THAT IT WOULD BE A SHAME FOR U.S. TO WITHDRAW FROM ILO,
THAT CONFRONTATIONS SHOULD BE AVOIDED WHENEVER POSSIBLE, BUT
THAT STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN ILO ARE LONG OVERDUE. EMBOFF
DID NOT HAVE OPPORTUNITY CONSULT WITH JOSIP FRANIC, HEAD OF
FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT COUNCIL, WHO WILL BE WORKING HEAD YUGOSLAV
DELEGATION AND EMBASSY RECOMMENDS IN VIEW OF MR. FRANIC'S
COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE AT GOVERNING BODY MEETING THAT U.S.
DELEGATION MEET WITH HIM AND OUTLINE US CONCERNS SOONEST.
END SUMMARY.

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1. YUGOSLAV CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT SVETOZAR
PEPOVSKI, IN RESPONSE CHARGE'S OUTLINING U.S. POSITION MAY 25,
STATED YUGOSLAV DELEGATION POSITION FOR CONFERENCE NOT YET SET.
HE REITERATED USUAL POSITION THAT YUGOSLAVIA ATTACHES GREAT
SIGNIFICANCE TO ILO AND VALUES U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO IT. HE
EMPHASIZED YUGOSLAV CONCERN WITH STRUCTURE OF ORGANIZATION
AND NEED TO "REFORM" IT, DESCRIBING STRUCTURE AS "OLD" AND

SAYING THAT WORLD HAS CHANGED. FOR INSTANCE, HE NOTED THAT YUGOSLAVIA DOES NOT EVEN HAVE EMPLOYERS AS SUCH BUT HAS NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN ADDING OTHER TERMINOLOGY CLOSER TO THE YUGOSLAV EXPERIENCE. PEPOVSKI NOTED FRIENDLY COOPERATION BETWEEN YUGOSLAVIA AND U.S. BUT SAID HE IS NOT SURE IF HIS COUNTRY CAN SUPPORT ALL U.S. PROPOSALS. HE EXPRESSED WISH THAT U.S. WILL FIND "WAY OR MEANS" TO GET OUT OF ITS PRESENT SITUATION; AND ADDED YUGOSLAVIA WOULD DO ITS UTMOST TO STRENGTHEN ROLE OF ILO IN GENERAL. TO CHARGE'S SUGGESTION THAT BASIC CONCERN OF U.S. IS EXCESSIVE POLITICIZATION OF ILO, PEPOVSKI AVOIDED DIRECTION OF CHARGE'S COMMENTS BY STATING THAT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS HAVE POLITICAL ASPECTS AS WELL. PEPOVSKI EMPHASIZED YUGOSLAV DESIRE FOR CONSULTATION RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION AND SAID "BOTH SIDES" HAVE SHOWN THEMSELVES INFLEXIBLE. PEPOVSKI SUMMARIZED YUGOSLAV POSITION AS BEING FOR UNIVERSALITY, TRIPARTITE NATURE OF ILO AND DIALOGUE AND CONSULTATIONS AND HE SAID YUGOSLAVIA UNDERSTANDS U.S. CONCERNS.

2. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION PEPOVSKI'S DEPUTY ZVONKO LUCIC, WHO WILL BE FRANIC'S DEPUTY AT ILO CONFERENCE IN GENEVA, STATED YUGOSLAVIA IS AGAINST CONFRONTATION AND POLITICAL/ IDEOLOGICAL RECRIMINATIONS AND WILL WORK TO KEEP DIALOGUE GOING. WHILE STATING YUGOSLAVIA IS AGAINST "POLITICIZATION OF ILO", HE SAID ILO MUST INTEREST ITSELF TO DETERMINE WHETHER TRADE UNION RIGHTS ARE VIOLATED FOR INSTANCE IN "CZECHOSLOVAKIA, CHILE, ISRAEL OR USSR". IN THIS CONNECTION HE REPEATED THAT HE THOUGHT IT THOROUGHLY PROPER TO RAISE QUESTION OF ARAB WORKERS' RIGHTS IN ISRAELI-OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND QUESTION OF LABOR

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LEADERS IN CHILE WHO ARE BEING PUT IN JAIL. AVOIDING THESE ISSUES HE SAID MIGHT LEAD ILO TO ADOPT "HIGH-SOUNDING MEASURES" WHILE IGNORING IMPORTANT WORKERS' CONCERNS. LUCIC ACKNOWLEDGED U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO ILO AND SAID "WE ARE NOT QUITE INDIFFERENT" TO U.S. REQUESTS RE ILO. HE THEN RAISED PROBLEM OF STRUCTURE SAYING ALL PROBLEMS RESULTED FROM THAT, BLAMING U.S. AND USSR FOR NOT BEING INTERESTED IN SOLVING ILO STRUCTURE PROBLEMS. HE THOUGHT AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 17 WOULD BE MOVING IN WRONG DIRECTION AS IT COULD BRING ABOUT CONFRONTATION. HE SAID YUGOSLAVIA WISHES TO AVOID CONFRONTATION AND WILL WORK WITH ITS "FRIENDS" TO INFLUENCE THEM. LUCIC SUGGESTED THAT AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 17 NEEDS THOROUGH EXPLANATION TO CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS. FINALLY LUCIC SAID SOME COUNTRIES

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P 260934Z MAY 77
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 780
INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BELGRADE 3370

THOUGHT SECRETARY OF STATE'S NOVEMBER 1975 LETTER WAS AN
"ULTIMATUM" AND THAT YUGOSLAVIA HAS RECEIVED SOME INFORMATION
THAT WHATEVER IS ACHIEVED AT JUNE CONFERENCE, U.S., UNDER
PRESSURE FROM AFL/CIO PRESIDENT MEANY, WILL WITHDRAW. LUCIC
WAS EMINDED THAT SECRETARY OF STATE'S LETTER WAS NOT ULTIMATUM
BUT A STATEMENT OF SITUATION AND THAT U.S. HAS MADE EXTENSIVE
EFFORTS IN PAST 18 MONTHS TO CONSULT WITH NUMBER OF COUNTRIES
IN EFFORT RETURN ILO TO ITS FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES SO THAT
U.S. COULD CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN THAT ORGANIZATION.
EMBOFF ALSO SAID THAT THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT U.S.
FINAL DECISION HAS BEEN MADE PRIOR TO JUNE CONFERENCE AND HE
RE-EMPHASIZED, AS DID CHARGE IN MEETING WITH PEPOVSKI,
IMPORTANCE OF THIS CONFERENCE FOR THE U.S. TO DECIDE ITS
FUTURE RELATIONSHIP WITH ILO. AT CLOSE OF MEETING LUCIC
SAID YUGOSLAVIA WOULD WORK TO AVOID WHAT HE CALLED THE
"WORST", THAT IS, U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ILO.

3. IN SEPARATE DISCUSSION AT FEDERAL SECRETARIAT FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS, YUGOSLAV OFFICIAL MILUTIN DESPOTOVIC STATED THAT ILO
IS CONSERVATIVE AND CHANGES NEED TO BE MADE IN STRUCTURE. HE
SAID YUGOSLAVIA SUPPORTS IDEA OF EQUAL TREATMENT FOR ALL ILO
MEMBERS, SPECIFICALLY IN CONNECTION EMBOFF'S POINT ABOUT ILO
TREATMENT OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.
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4. PEPOVSKI WILL BE CEREMONIAL HEAD OF YUGOSLAV DELEGATION
AT CONFERENCE BUT JOSIP FRANIC, CHAIRMAN OF FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT
COUNCIL, WILL BE WORKING HEAD OF DELEGATION. BECAUSE OF HIS
TIGHT SCHEDULE, IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR EMBOFF MEET WITH HIM

AND EMBASSY SUGGESTS GIVEN FRANIC'S COOPERATIVE CONSTRUCTIVE
ROLE AT GOVERNING BODY MEETING THAT U.S. DELEGATION CONTACT
HIM IN GENEVA. HE LEFT FOR GENEVA ON MAY 23.

5. COMMENT: THROUGHOUT OUR CONVERSATIONS, YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS
EMPHASIZED VALUE THEY PLACE ON U.S. PARTICIPATION IN ILO,
DESIRE TO AVOID CONFRONTATION, AND WILLINGNESS TO TRY TO WORK
TO FIND WAYS TO KEEP U.S. IN ILO. AT SAME TIME, THEY ALL
EMPHASIZED, AS THEY HAVE IN THE PAST, NEED FOR CHANGES IN ILO
STRUCTURE AND THAT WILL CERTAINLY BE IMPORTANT YUGOSLAV GOAL
AT CONFERENCE. YUGOSLAV POSITION AT CONFERENCE, WHICH ACCORDING
TO PEPOVSKI NOT YET SET, WILL PROBABLY BE WORKED OUT
AT FAIRLY HIGH POLITICAL LEVEL IN GOY AND YUGOSLAVIA WILL
HAVE TO FOCUS ON POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS ITS POSITIONS. AT GOVERNING
BODY MEETING YUGOSLAV DELEGATION WORKED TO AVOID CONFRONTATION
AND EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THAT WILL BE YUGOSLAV GOAL AT
CONFERENCE AS WELL. HOWEVER, CONFERENCE WORKINGS PRESUMABLY
WILL BE MORE OPEN WITH RESULT THAT YUGOSLAVIA WILL BE
CONCERNED NOT TO ANTAGONIZE ITS ARAB AND OTHER NONALIGNED
FRIENDS. FOR THIS REASON EMBASSY STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF
CONSULTATIONS WITH FRANIC. YORK

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